REMARKS

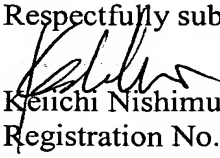
Claim 5 currently remains in the application. Claims 1-3 and 6-9 have been canceled, claim 4 has been withdrawn. No claim is herein amended.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Towery over Ronay. Towery discloses a plate 17 having a polishing pad or block 16 attached to its surface (column 4, lines 21-67 and Figs. 1 and 2) and Ronay discloses a polish slurry containing both coated particles and uncoated particles dispersed therein (column 3, lines 54-56 and column 4, lines 5-13). The method according to the present invention, as described in claim 5 herein, is basically different in that the slurry is NOT supplied to any soft polishing pad or block of the type described by Towery but is directly supplied onto the hard surface (as described in page 5, lines 17-19 of the specification) of the lapping plate. It should be noted that neither of the cited references suggests or even hints at supplying a slurry directly onto the lapping plate surface.

It is further to be noted that this direct application of slurry onto the lapping plate surface is one of the distinguishing characteristics of the present invention, as explained in page 1, lines 25- page 2, line 11 and page 3, lines 1-5 of the specification, in view in particular of the kind of problems encountered by prior art methods relying on the use of soft polishing cloths. Indeed, the advantageous characteristic of the present invention is that the mother particles directly applied onto the lapping plate surface function like a polishing pad without the disadvantage of prior art methods of actually using a polishing pad. Such advantages of the present invention described in the specification are not attainable by the methods of the cited references.

It is therefore to be concluded that the present invention as limited by claim 5 is not obvious even if the cited references are considered in combination and hence that the application is allowable.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenichi Nishimura
Registration No. 29,093

August 31, 2005
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP
Telephone: (510) 663-1100
Telefax: (510) 663-0920